

REMARKS

Applicant confirms its election to prosecute claims 1-18, directed to Figure 4, without traverse. The Examiner states that Applicant initially made its election with traverse. This is not correct. Applicant at no point traversed the election it is now confirming.

Applicant has enclosed 9 sheets of formal drawings to replace the original drawings.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 11 under 35 USC 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite. Claims 1, 4, 5, 7, 9, 10 and 11 have been amended to provide for sufficient antecedent basis for all recited elements.

The Examiner rejected claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 under 35 USC 102(b) as being anticipated by US Patent No. 5,865,721, issued to Andrews et al. (hereinafter referred to as "Andrews"). Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection.

Andrews discloses a dual lumen catheter 10 having an outer tube 12 and an inner tube 14. For insertion, a guide wire 28 is slidably disposed within inner tube 14. The guide wire 28 comprises a stylet 40 and is for use through the inner lumen (see col. 6, lines 60-67 and col. 7, lines 25-27). The balloon catheter 10 is inserted into a patient's artery by disposing and sliding the inner tube 14 of catheter 10 over the guide wire 28 (see col. 1, lines 25-34).

Claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 all require a stylet connected to the tip on one end and to the tube on the opposite end.

The Examiner equates the stylet as claimed to the guide wire 28 of Andrews. This is not a valid comparison as the stylet as claimed in claims 1, 4, 6 and 7 is an integral part of the catheter and is connected to the catheter. Whereas, in Andrews the stylet is part of a separate guide wire used for insertion of the catheter. The Andrews stylet/guidewire is not connected to the catheter, see Figure 2. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

The Examiner rejected claim 2 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,544,648, issued to Fischer Jr. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. Applicant reasserts the arguments made above and states that nowhere in Andrews is there any discussion of a stylet connected to the balloon catheter that is more flexible towards its distal end.

The Examiner rejected claim 3 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,807,324. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and reasserts the arguments made above.

The Examiner rejected claims 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,795,325, issued to Valley et al. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection and reasserts the arguments made above.

The Examiner rejected claims 13, 14, 15, 16, 17 and 18 under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Andrews in view of Valley et al., as applied to claims 8-10, and further in view of U.S. Patent No. 5,419,765, issued to Weldon et al. Applicant traverses this rejection and reasserts the arguments made above.

Further examination is respectfully requested. Should there remain unresolved issues that require adverse action, it is respectfully requested that the Examiner telephone Abraham Ronai, Applicants' Attorney at 201-307-5350 so that such issues may be resolved as expeditiously as possible.

Respectfully Submitted,

December 10, 2002

Date

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'A. Ronai', written over a horizontal line.

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FIG. 1

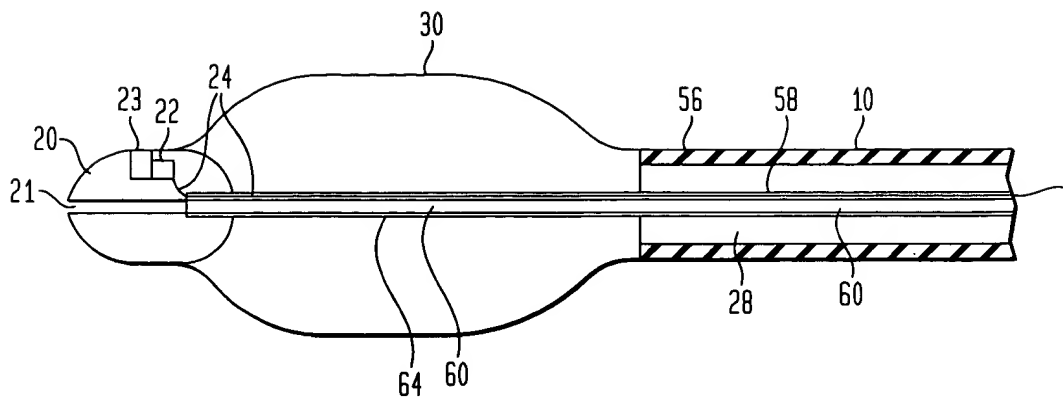
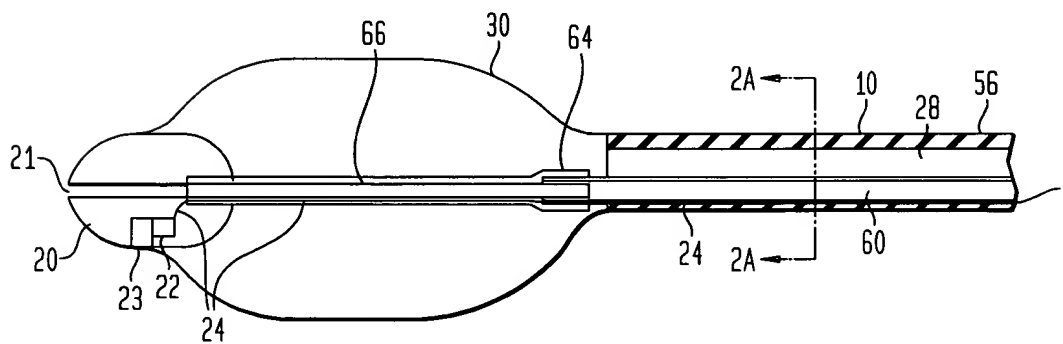


FIG. 2





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FIG. 1A

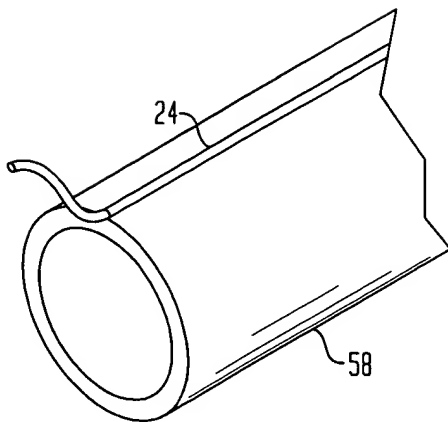


FIG. 1B

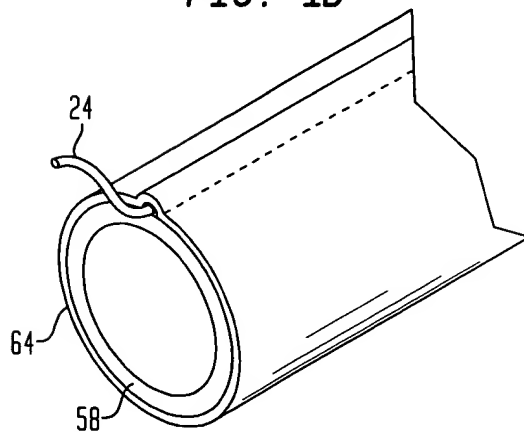


FIG. 1C

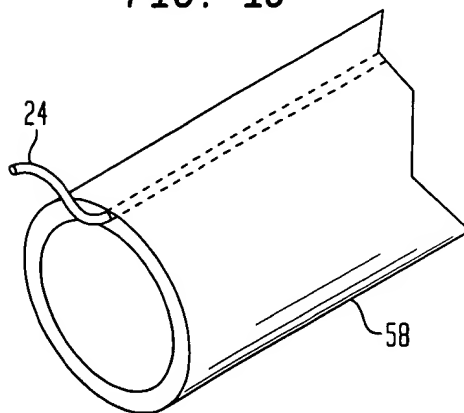


FIG. 2A

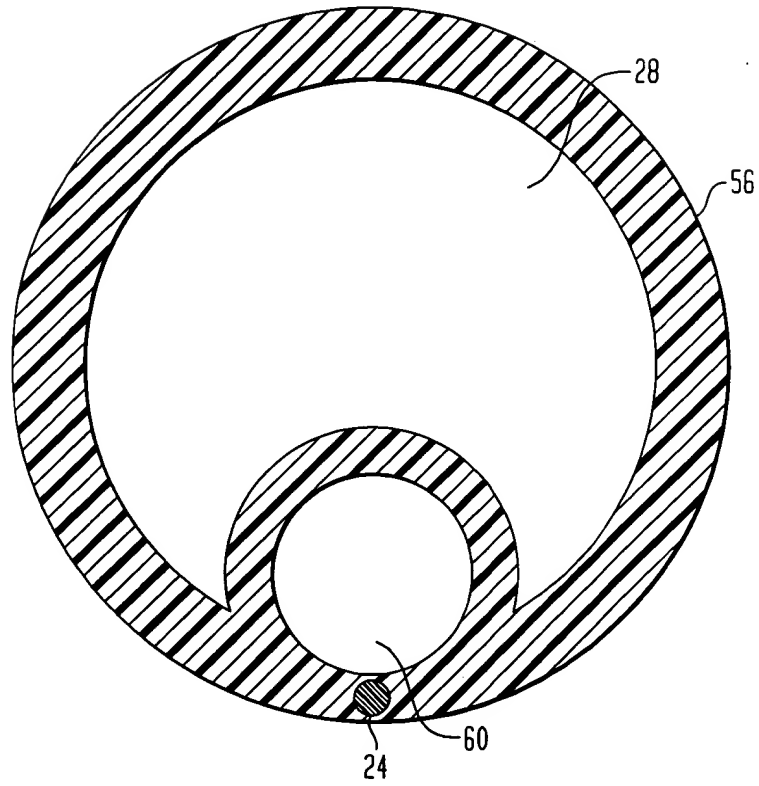


FIG. 3A

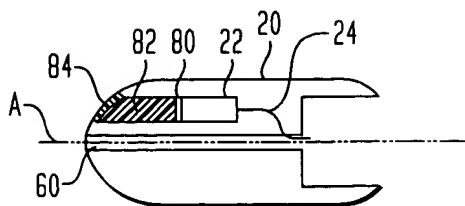


FIG. 3B

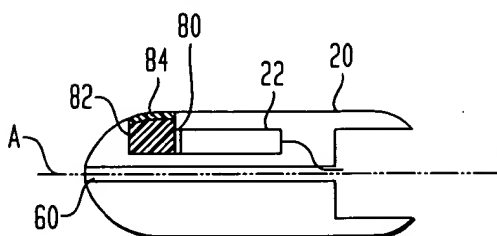


FIG. 3C

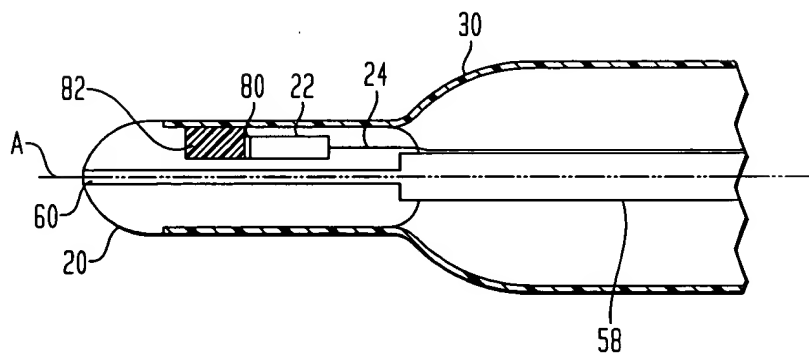


FIG. 3D

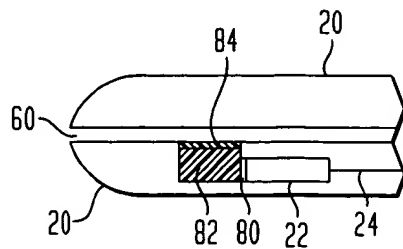


FIG. 4

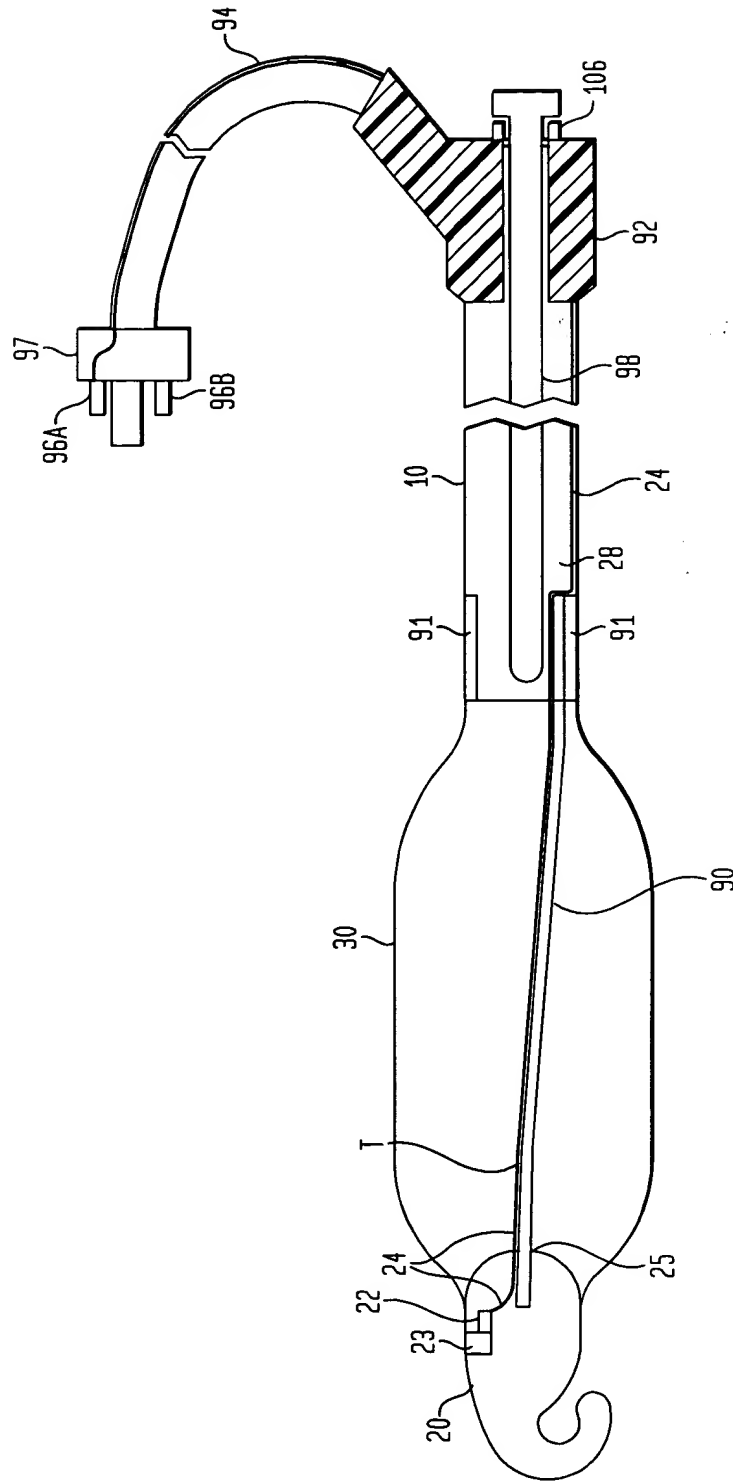
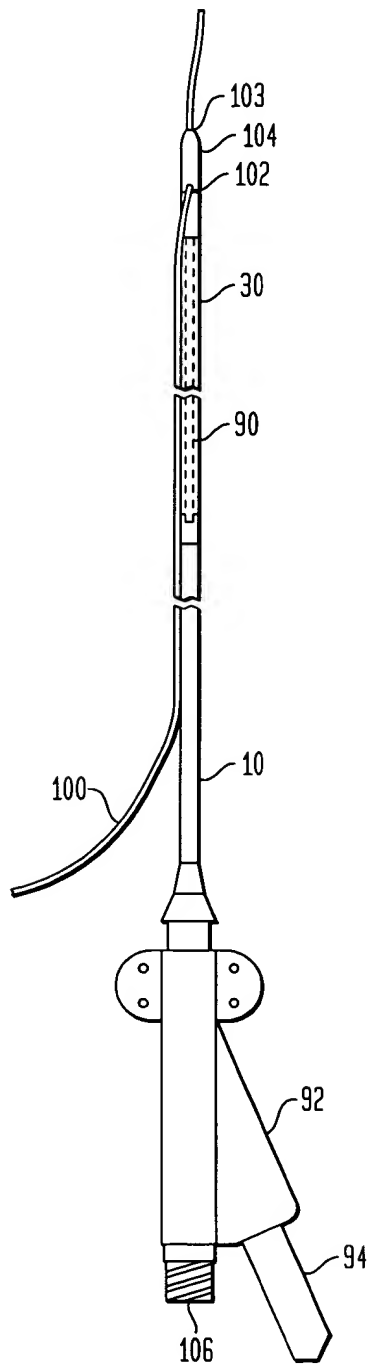


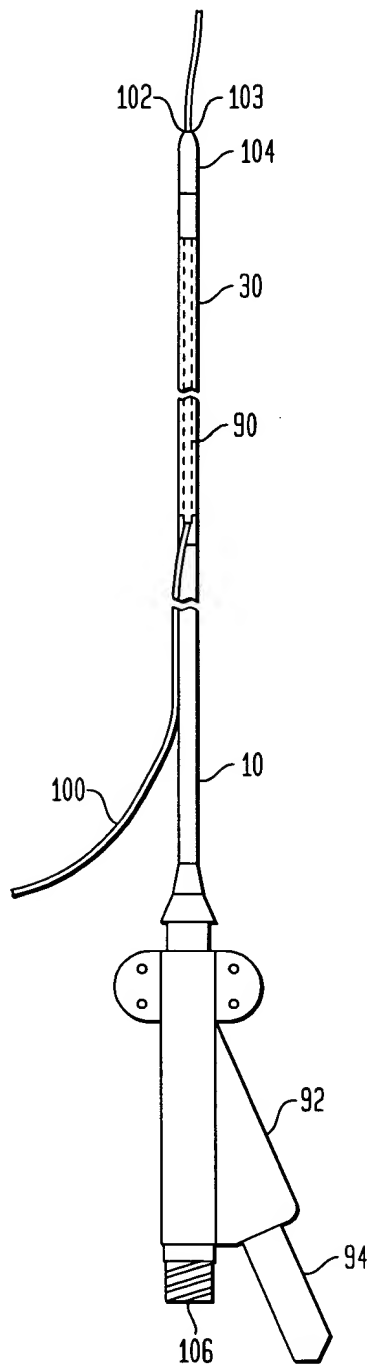
FIG. 5A





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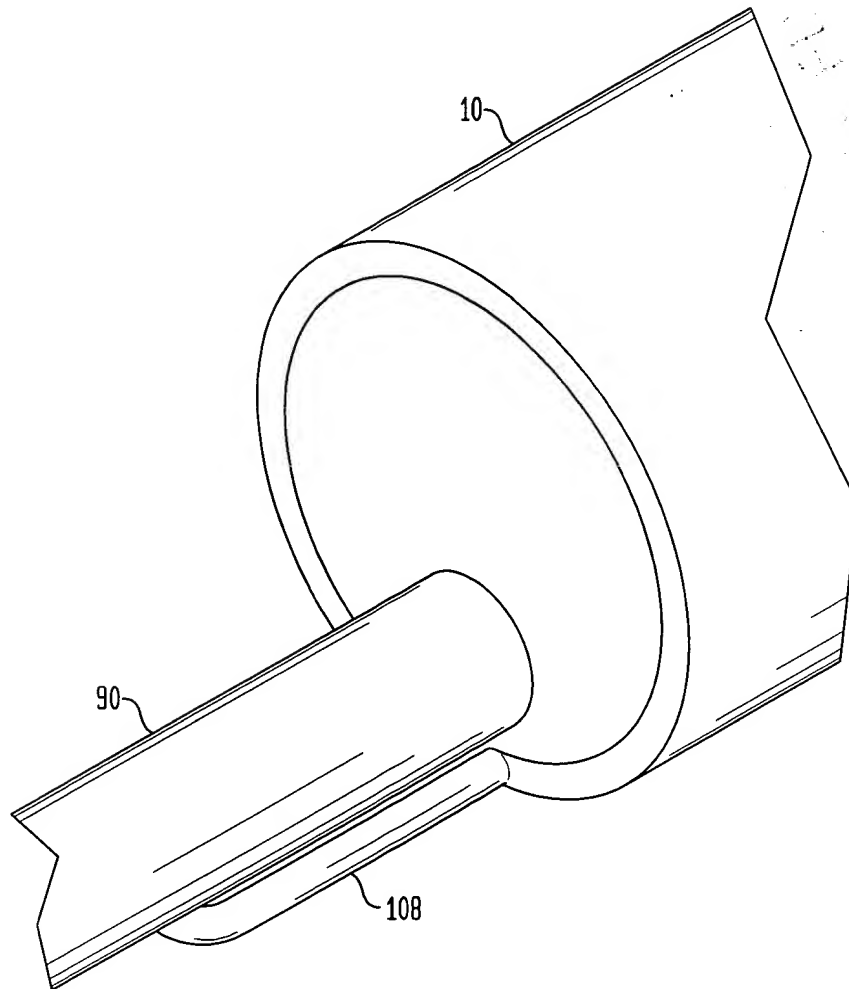
FIG. 5B





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FIG. 6





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FIG. 7A

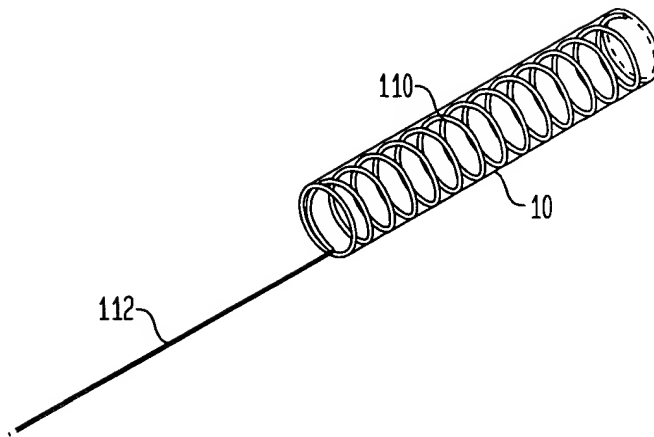


FIG. 7B

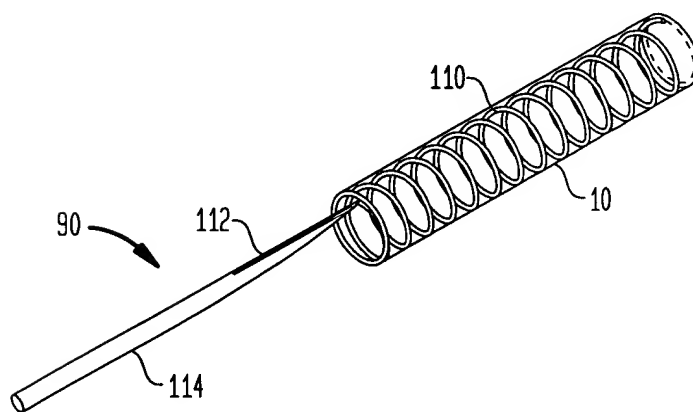


FIG. 7C

